Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for authorizing, authenticating and accounting users having transparent access to a destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home network through home network settings resident on the user's computers, and wherein the users can access the destination network without altering the home network settings, comprising:

    receiving at a gateway device a request from a user for access to the destination network;

    identifying an attribute associated with the user based upon a packet received by the gateway device, wherein the attribute comprises an indication of the location comprising a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received that is determined based on the received packet, wherein the packet is transmitted from the user's computer, wherein the user's computer remains configured for accessing the home network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed on the user's computer to access the destination network and any other network;

    accessing a user profile corresponding to the user and stored in a user profile database, where the user profile is accessed based upon the attribute associated with the user; and

    determining if the user is entitled to access the destination network based upon both the user profile and the indication of the location comprising the port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the user database when a new user accesses the destination network.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining in the user profile a historical log of the user's access to the destination network.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at the gateway device a request from a user for access comprises the step of receiving an Internet destination address from the user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the user is entitled to access the destination network further comprises denying the user access where the user profile indicates that the user is denied access.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the user is entitled to access the destination network further comprises directing the user to a login page where the user profile is not located within the user profile database.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for authorizing, authenticating and accounting users having transparent access to a destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home network through home network settings resident on the user's computers, and wherein the users can access the destination network without altering the home network settings, comprising:

a gateway device for receiving a request from a user for access to the destination network;

means for identifying an attribute associated with the user based upon a packet received by the gateway device, wherein the attribute comprises an indication of the location comprising a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received that is determined based on the received packet, wherein the packet is transmitted from the user's computer, wherein the user's computer is configured for accessing the home network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed on the user's computer in order for the user to access the destination network and any other network;

a user profile database comprising stored access information and in communication with

the gateway device, and wherein access information corresponding to the user is identified by the attribute associated with the user, and

an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) server in communication with the gateway device and user profile database, where the AAA server determines if user is entitled to access the destination network based upon the access information stored within the user profile database and based upon the indication of the location comprising the port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the packet received by the gateway device include at least one of VLAN ID, a circuit ID, and a MAC address.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the means for identifying comprises an access concentrator in communication with the gateway device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the AAA server is located within the gateway device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the user profile database includes a plurality of user profiles, wherein each respective user profile of the plurality of user profiles contains access information.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the user profile database is located within the AAA server.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein each respective user profile contains historical data relating to the duration of destination network access for use in determining the charges due for the destination network access.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining authentication

requirements for the received packet based on information within the received packet,

wherein determining if the user is entitled to access the destination network further comprises basing the determination also on the determined authentication requirements.

17. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein the AAA server determines authentication requirements for the received packet based on information within the received packet and determines if the user is entitled to access the destination network based upon the access information stored within the user profile database, the determined authentication requirements and the indication of the location.

18. (New) A method for authorizing, authenticating and accounting users having transparent access to a destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home network through home network settings resident on the user's computers, and wherein the users can access the destination network without altering the home network settings, comprising:

receiving at a gateway device a request from a user for access to the destination network;

identifying an attribute associated with the user based upon a packet received by the gateway device, wherein the attribute comprises an indication of the location comprising a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received that is determined based on the received packet, wherein the packet is transmitted from the user's computer, wherein the user's computer remains configured for accessing the home network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed on the user's computer to access the destination network and any other network;

determining authentication requirements for the received packet based on information within the received packet;

accessing a user profile corresponding to the user and stored in a user profile database, where the user profile is accessed based upon the attribute associated with the user; and

determining if the user is entitled to access the destination network based upon each of the user profile, the determined authentication requirements for the received packet and

the indication of the location comprising the port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address from which the request was received.